

January/February 2010

Trendlines

Perspectives on Utah's Economy

utah's economy
a look forward & back

2010

Measuring Unemployment:
The Saga Continues
Economic Insight pg. 10

Answer the 2010 Census—
Help Your Community
National News pg. 12

Department of Workforce Services



Trendlines

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Trendlines

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A Look Forward and Back



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Just the Facts...

Rate Update



Did You Know...

- Alliant Techsystems (ATK) said it has been awarded a contract to supply small-caliber ammunition worth \$93 million. http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_13748293
- The growing ranks of the unemployed have drained the budget of a state-administered program that provides new-job training. http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_13818957
- Like a year ago, employers in Utah seem reluctant to pad their payrolls this holiday season with part-time workers. http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_13853319



Putting Government Employment in

PERSPECTIVE

Government is currently one of only three industries in Utah that is showing year-over employment growth. The others are healthcare and private-sector education. This has been the case over the last year, as all other industries have experienced some sort of employment contraction since October 2008, with construction, manufacturing, and financial services experiencing contractions more along the lines of the past two years.

Government is comprised of three branches—federal, state, and local. All can be classified and quantified with employment, individually or in aggregate. Government in aggregate makes up around 18.2 percent of all Utah employment, making it the second largest employment sector (and generally in most other states also) behind retail trade. This is up from 17.2 percent just two years ago, but it is not so much that government is growing beyond its normal proportions. Instead, it is more a matter of other industries losing jobs, thus causing their percentage of total employment to shrink, which makes government look bigger.

Government has not grown beyond its proportions. Its customer base is largely the Utah population, and

in Utah, the population has been growing at a much faster rate than can be seen in total government growth. From 2003 through 2008, Utah's population has grown by 14.3 percent, while government employment has grown by 7.7 percent. Three years ago, when Utah's economy was booming, government was the slowest growing of all Utah industries. It is quite common during good economic times for government to be one of the slowest growing industries.


Just over half of all government employment in Utah is found at the local government level. The biggest employer within the local government sphere is the local school districts. Local government employment has grown by 10.3 percent between 2003 and 2008, with most of this growth driven by increasing numbers of young Utah children aging their way into the K-6 education system.

Most of the growth in government recorded over the past year (during the economic downturn) has been at the local government level. Local government employment has expanded by 1.9 percent over the past year.

State government employment has grown by 8.5 percent between 2003 and

2008, with two-thirds of this growth coming within the higher education system. In the face of constrained budgets, state government employment has contracted over the past year by 1.1 percent. This has happened in the face of a noticeable increase in higher education enrollments over the past year. It is the conundrum of economic downturns that state budgets feel the pinch of declining revenues, while many workers idled by the recession use the down time to take advantage of the higher education system to further their skills and education. There is commonly an inverse relationship between the health of the economy, and the level of higher education enrollment.

The federal government makes up about 17 percent of all government employment in Utah. Federal government employment in Utah has actually contracted by 1 percent between 2003 and 2008. Recently though, with much federal stimulus money in the mix, federal government employment in Utah has grown by nearly 4 percent over the past year.

Both federal and local government employment levels have helped to add new jobs to the Utah economy over the past year. 

Oil and Gas in Utah: Boom, Bust, & Beyond

As oil and gas production expanded, so did employment in the industry. What does the future hold for the oil and gas industry in Utah?

Utah's oil and gas industry occupies an interesting position within the country's industry as a whole. In 2007, Utah ranked 16th in total energy production, 13th in crude oil production, and 8th in natural gas production among the fifty states. However impressive these ranking may appear, Utah only produces 1.5 percent of the total energy, 1 percent of the total crude oil, and 1.9 percent of the total natural gas in the United States. While the quantities of oil and gas produced in Utah are relatively small when viewed from the national perspective, the industry is regionally important.

In Duchesne and Uintah counties, employment in the oil and gas industry accounts for between 15 to 20 percent of total employment. Moreover, the oil and gas produced is important to the neighboring states of Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming. Utah produced a total of 1,087 trillion BTUs of energy and consumed only 806 trillion BTUs in 2007, which left 25 percent of total energy output available for sale to these nearby states. For eastern Utah and the surrounding states, Utah's oil and gas industry is of considerable significance.

The oil and gas industry can be volatile, exhibiting alternating periods of booms and busts. From 2000 to the end of 2008, the industry in Utah experienced a nearly continuous boom. The steady rise in both oil and natural gas prices stimulated expansion in the industry, but what explains the rise in prices? Four main factors operating in concert brought about the price increase. First, international demand for oil was growing rapidly, particularly in China, India, and the Middle East. Second, world production lagged behind the higher level of demand. Third, a relatively weak U.S. dollar meant that each dollar purchased a smaller quantity of foreign oil. And fourth, general disappointment in the performance of the stock market led investors to shift their funds to

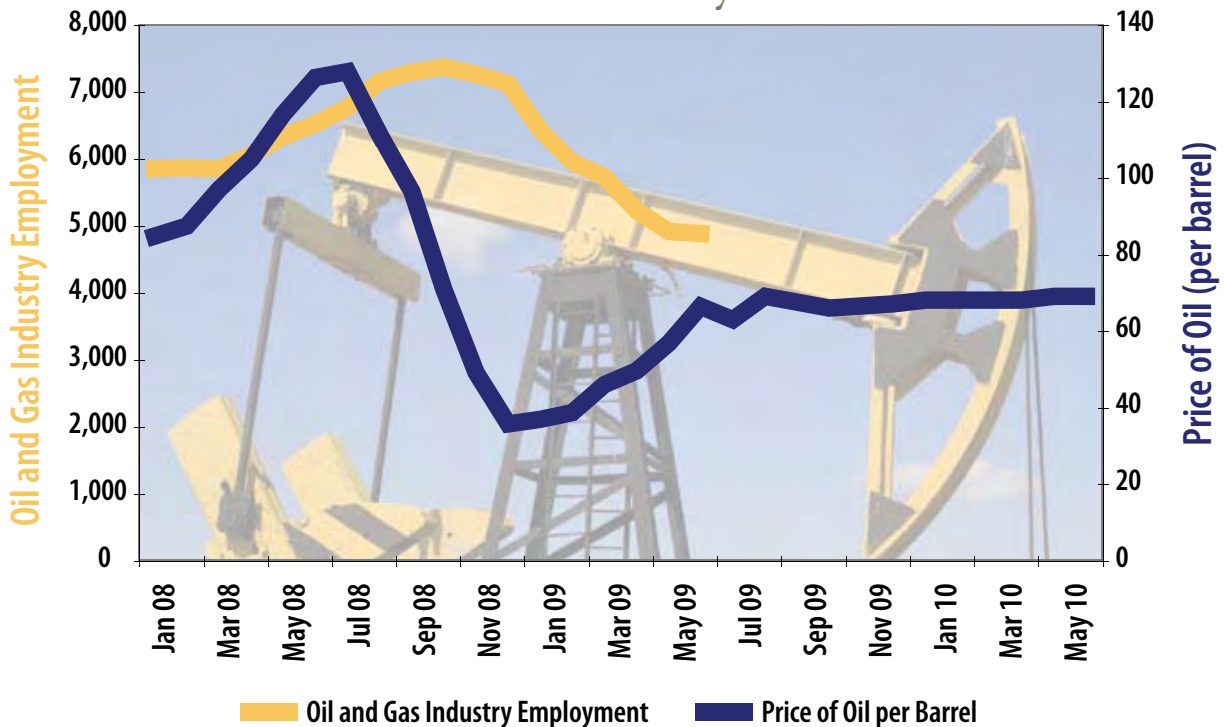
commodities, which includes oil. Together these factors raised oil prices and stimulated domestic oil and gas production.

As oil and gas production expanded, so did employment in the industry. Total oil and gas employment in Utah increased by more than 25 percent in the first 10 months of 2008 reaching a peak of 7,367 in October (see graphs).

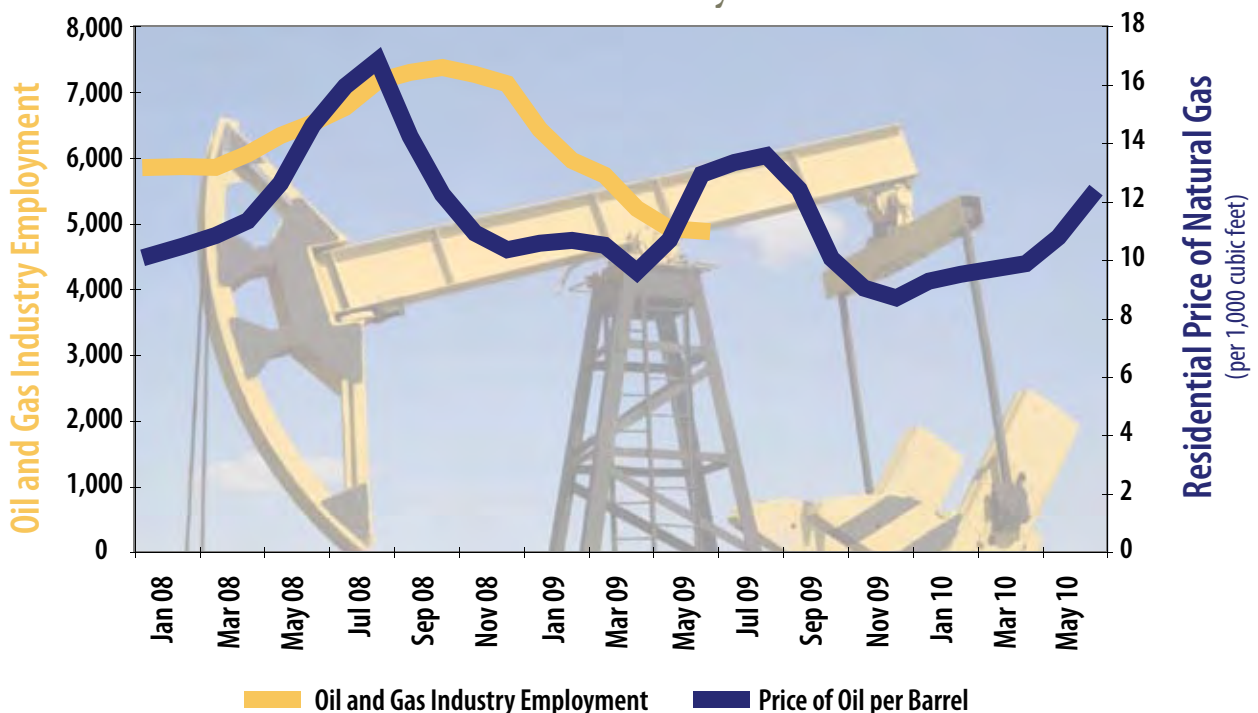
In the summer of 2008 the prices of oil and natural gas began to fall, which would signal a reversal in the oil and gas industry's fortunes. Why did prices fall? The full impact of the current recession was only beginning to be felt in the second half of 2008. Subsequently, demand for oil in the U.S. alone dropped by 10 percent and worldwide demand softened amidst the global recession. The dollar also began to strengthen in the middle of 2008, implying a lower dollar price for foreign oil. The dramatic drop in oil and gas prices led to an equally dramatic drop in Utah's employment. In the eight months following October 2008, employment in the Utah oil and gas industry fell by more than 33 percent to 5,850 in June 2009 (see graphs).

What does the future hold for the oil and gas industry in Utah? While booms and busts are the nature of the industry, there might be reason for optimism concerning the near future. The recent weakening of the dollar and rising world demand has started to push up oil and natural gas prices. The decline in oil and gas employment slowed down from April to June of this year indicating, perhaps, the bottom of the trough. Furthermore, the Energy Information Administration short-term projections for oil and natural gas prices show upward trends through June of 2010 (see graphs). Taken as a whole, the indicators suggest that employment in Utah's oil and gas industry should stabilize and could begin to rise again before the end of 2009. ●

Oil Prices and Employment in the Oil and Gas Industry in Utah



Natural Gas Prices and Employment in the Oil and Gas Industry in Utah



Sources: Utah Department of Workforce Services; Energy Information Administration.



Looking Back at 2009

The immediate repercussions of the downturn are just now beginning to ease, but the longer-term effects are yet to transpire.

Economically, 2009 was a very rough year for the state of Utah. It will be marked as Utah's worst year of job loss in the post-World War II era. In fact, no other year comes close to matching the anticipated 4.9-percent job loss of 2009. The closest Utah has come is a 2.5-percent decline in 1954 when the Korean War was shutting down. Since 1950, Utah has had only a handful of periods in which jobs were being shed. On a calendar year basis, only 1954, 1964, 2002, and now 2009 can make that list. To underscore how strong the current downturn is, its negative momentum will likely add 2010 to the list also.

It was a great wave of negative national economic events that overwhelmed the usually robust Utah economy. Subprime mortgage defaults, the meltdown in the housing market, and finally the powerful stock market crash of September 2008 all conspired to throw the capitalistic economic system that this country (and Utah) operates under into its worst fears—the melting down of

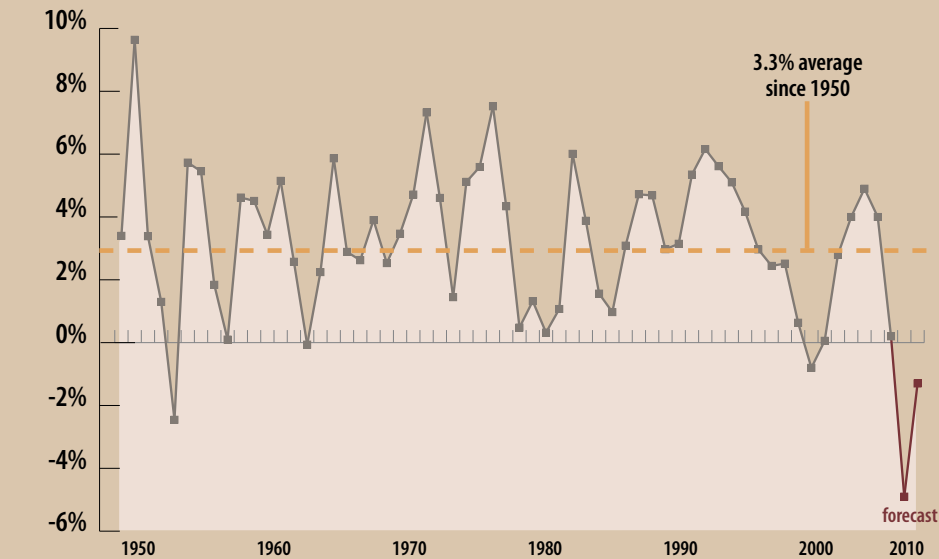
capitalism's heart and soul, its financial markets. History shows that when the financial markets suffer severe shocks, it can be years before the system functions smoothly again and resumes its place as the lifeblood of a robust and expanding economy. In the meantime, the economy struggles and underperforms. The immediate repercussions of the downturn are just now beginning to ease, but the longer-term effects are yet to transpire, creating a less-than-rosy outlook for the next year.

If the -4.9 percent employment forecast holds true for 2009, then Utah will have lost 61,000 jobs between 2008 and 2009. This is an average of the monthly flows throughout the year, and the decline did not occur at a steady pace from January to December. The numbers fell hard throughout the first half of 2009, but seemed to have found a bottom sometime around September 2009. The numbers thereafter should show improvement, only because the economy is not expected to repeat its epic collapse that began in the fourth

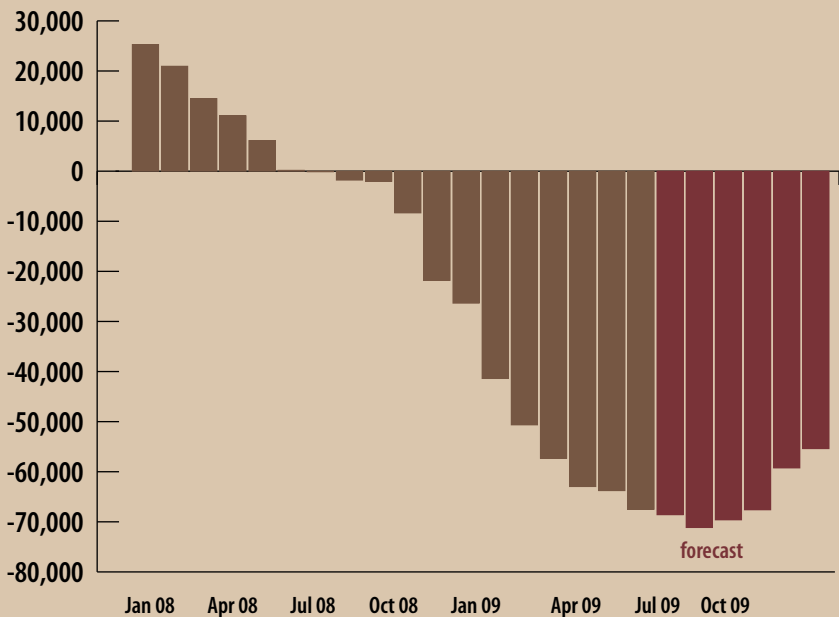
quarter of 2008. So the worst (nadir) month for over-the-year job loss might be August, when just over 71,000 fewer jobs will be counted than were recorded for August 2008.

Prior to this downturn, the worst month for job loss compared to the same month of the prior year was March 2002, when the Utah economy had shed 14,900 jobs across that 12-month span. The best month of job growth was June 2006, when 62,500 jobs were created over the previous 12-month span. The best 12-month period of job growth greatly exceeded the worst 12-month span of job loss—until this downturn. If the August numbers hold true, then the 71,000 anticipated lost jobs from August 2008 to August 2009 will exceed even the best 12-month period of Utah job growth (which is so pervasive throughout Utah's post-WWII economic history that it almost seems the state's natural birthright)—a dubious testament to the uniqueness and extremes of this economic downturn. ⓘ

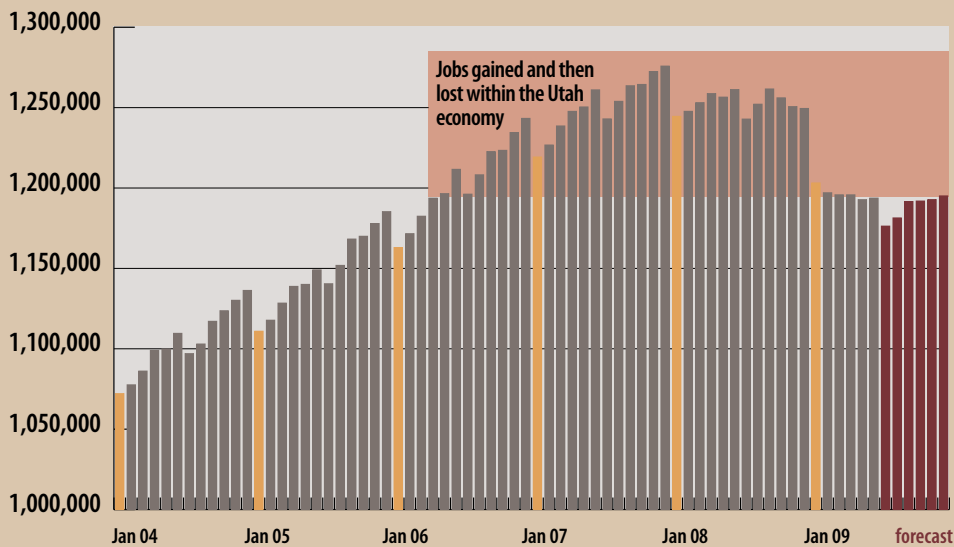
Utah State Employment Growth Rates 1950 – 2010



12-Month Numeric Change in Utah Employment by Month January 2008—December 2009



Utah Employment by Month January 2008—December 2009



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services
f = forecast

Measuring Unemployment: The Saga Continues



In the last two issues of Trendlines, economists addressed the dicey question of whether the official unemployment rate fully captures the status of workers.* The theme was brought about by the release of a set of statistics for the states called Alternative Measures of Underutilization. The data set has been available for the nation as a whole since 1940, but not individually for each of the states. The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently made state data available for 2005 to the present. Release of the state data has magnified the interest in these alternative measures of underutilization.

The standard calculation of the unemployment rate divides the number of unemployed by the civilian labor force. Measuring the status of American workers, however, isn't that simple. Six alternative measures of underutilized labor are defined. These were discussed in the previous issues of Trendlines, but again are presented in abbreviated form starting with the unemployment rate we are used to. This standard unemployment rate is called the U-3 mea-

sure. If you added discouraged workers (U-4), plus other marginally employed (U-5), and then added in workers that were employed part-time for economic reasons (dictated by the employer), you would get what is called the U-6 underutilization rate. Right now, in this deep recession, there is a significant gap between the standard U-3 unemployment rate and the rate that includes the total U-6 defined workers.

Beyond the "unemployment rate"—How Much Worse Off is the American Worker?

Just looking at the standard (U-3) unemployment rate and comparing it with the "worst" scenario (the U-6) rate, the rate for the U.S. would jump from 8.5 percent to 15.2 percent. (That's using the most recent annual calculation for the year ending in third quarter 2009.) At the state level, there were six states with double-digit standard unemployment rates. The underutilization rate (U-6) was nearly double the standard unemployment rate in these states (see the graph). Half of those six high-rate

states were in the west: California (10.4 percent), Nevada (10.2 percent), and Oregon (11.2 percent). Adding in the other components of the underutilization rate and these rates go to 19.5 percent, 17.5 percent, and 20.1 percent, respectively.

How Does Utah Rank in Underutilization Rate?

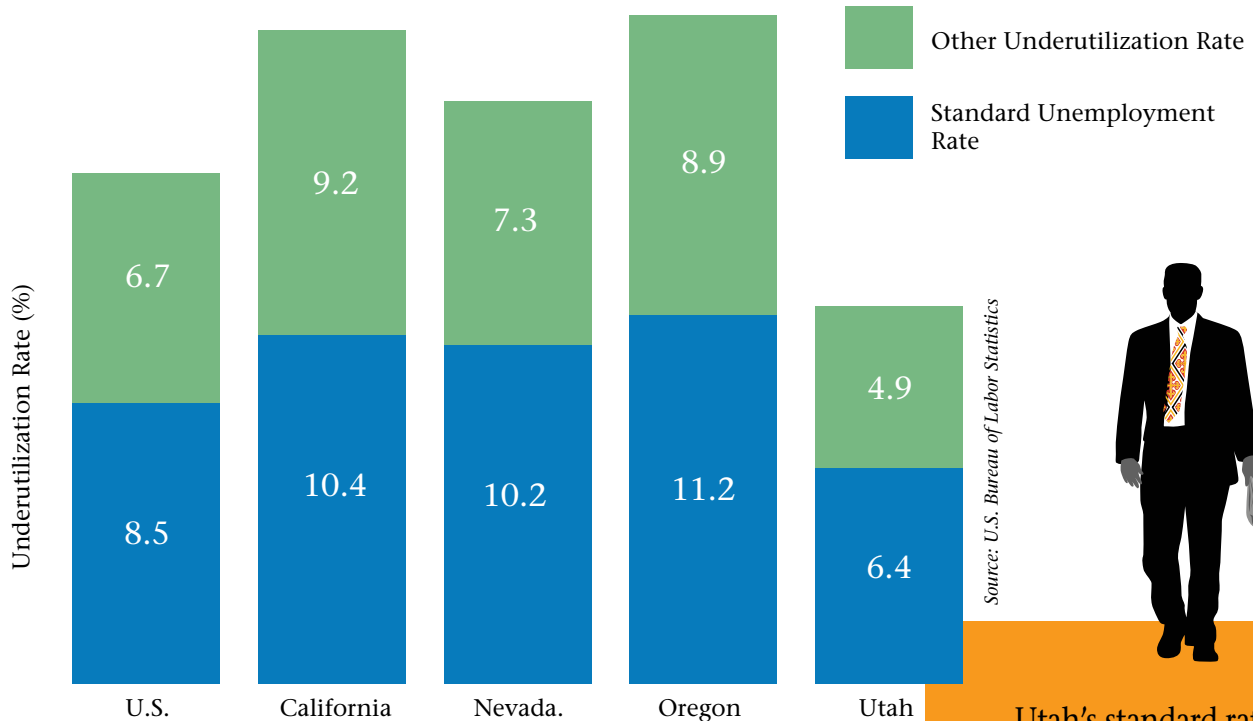
Clearly, Utah has been heavily affected by the recession with job losses at unprecedented levels and unemployment rising significantly. In 2006 the standard rate was an unprecedented 2.9 percent, with an underutilization rate of 5.8 percent. For comparison, the 2008 standard U-3 rate was 3.5 percent and the accompanying U-6 rate was 6.2. For the year ended in third quarter 2009, Utah's standard rate jumped from 3.5 percent (2008) to 6.4 percent, and the U-6 underutilization rate nearly doubled the standard rate, rising to 11.3 percent (see the graph).

Now compare the Utah rates, both the standard unemployment rate and the

*<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/trendlines/mayjune09/nationalnews.pdf>

*<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/trendlines/julaug09/whats happening.pdf>

Standard Unemployment Rates & Other Underutilization* Rates



Year Ending Third Quarter 2009

**Includes discouraged workers (U-4) plus other marginally employed (neither working or looking for work in the past excluding discouraged workers) (U-5) and workers that were employed part-time for economic reasons (dictated by the employer).*

total underutilization rate (U-6), with the rates shown for the other states in the west and the nation. Although it's no respite to those currently unemployed Utahns, it does put Utah in a better light relative to the west. Michigan is still in the worst position with unemployment (12.9 percent) and high underutilization (20.9 percent).

In the perspective of either the U-3 rates or the U-6 rates, we are in a re-

cession. Hopefully, in the next few months, the economy will start to grow. That economic growth will result in job growth, but probably with a lag of many months. ⓘ

For current information and data on underutilization rates see:

- <http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/ore/pdf/ec090020.pdf>

Utah's standard rate jumped from 3.5 percent to 6.4 percent, and the U-6 underutilization rate (workers that were employed part-time for economic reasons dictated by the employer) nearly doubled the standard rate, rising to 11.3 percent.

Answer the 2010 Census— Help Your Community

On Census Day—April 1, 2010, complete and return the questionnaire, and encourage others to do likewise.

The U.S. Constitution stipulates that a census, or “counting the whole number of persons in each state” shall occur every ten years. There have been 22 census population counts, the first being conducted in 1790. The population counts, both citizens and non-citizens, are used to divide the 435 voting seats in the House of Representatives among the 50 states.

The 2010 Census will be next spring with a reference date of April 1st. It is the aim of the U.S. Census Bureau to “count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place” where they reside, as of April 1, 2010. In the coming decade, trillions of state and federal tax dollars will be allocated to local, state, and tribal governments largely based on their census population counts. It is important that communities in Utah get the most complete and accurate population count possible.

Furthermore, 2010 Census demographic characteristics will be combined with other socio-economic indicators by community and used by business leaders and government officials to shape their decisions until the next census.

Planning for new investments, infrastructure, transportation, neighborhood improvements, schools, public health, housing, senior services and much more is based on census counts.

The once-in-a-decade census is a huge undertaking. The U.S. Census Bureau will need about 1.4 million temporary workers to collect census questionnaires from an estimated 310 million people that reside in the United States.

There is good news for respondents, because the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history. The single set of questions authorized by Congress asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship to other household members, and whether you own or rent your home. Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households during March 2010.


The Census Bureau estimates it will take the average household about 10 minutes to complete the form, which should be returned by U.S. mail in the pre-paid envelope provided. Census workers will visit households that do not return the questionnaire. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to

be counted, there will be 59 different language guides, telephone assistance, and other community-based resources to help count our diverse population.

Most cities and towns organize complete count committees to raise awareness of the Census, to help Census Bureau employees reach out to difficult-to-enumerate populations, and to encourage all of their residents to return the census forms.

As part of the Constitution and under the direction of Congress, federal law requires responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire. All responses are combined with others in your community and used for statistical purposes only. By law, individual responses are all strictly confidential and are not shared by the Census Bureau with other federal agencies.

A complete census count is important for your representation in Congress and to the health, vitality, and future of your community.

On Census Day—April 1, 2010, complete and return the questionnaire, and encourage others to do likewise. 



*For information on the all new,
official 2010 Census web site:*

•<http://2010.census.gov/>

Looking Toward

2010

So what can we expect of the Utah economy in 2010? Improvement, but not necessarily a complete removal of the recession's negative effects. The Utah job losses are currently deep enough that yes, the overall job situation is expected to improve throughout 2010, but the gains may not come at a quick enough pace to counter the job losses still to be recorded during the beginning of the year.

There are two possibilities going forward for the national economic recovery. We focus upon the national recovery, even though the focus of this article is upon Utah, because whatever happens within the national economic environment will be what largely happens in Utah. It was the national economic malaise that pulled Utah into this downturn, and it will be a bettering of the national picture that will lift Utah out.

The two economic possibilities are a slow and steady national recovery, and


the other a faltering in the recovery leading to a slip in the Gross Domestic Product and more job losses, followed by an eventual recovery. The latter scenario is a W-shaped recovery, where there is an initial but short lived movement upward, followed by another period of decline, to be followed by an eventual and sustainable recovery (which, when graphed, forms a W shape).

The underlying assumption in this forecast is that a straight but tepid recovery will develop. The possibility of a W-shaped scenario is quite within the realm of possibility, however. After all, the current signs of recovery are largely being driven by federal government spending, which, in the long run, is artificial stimulation.

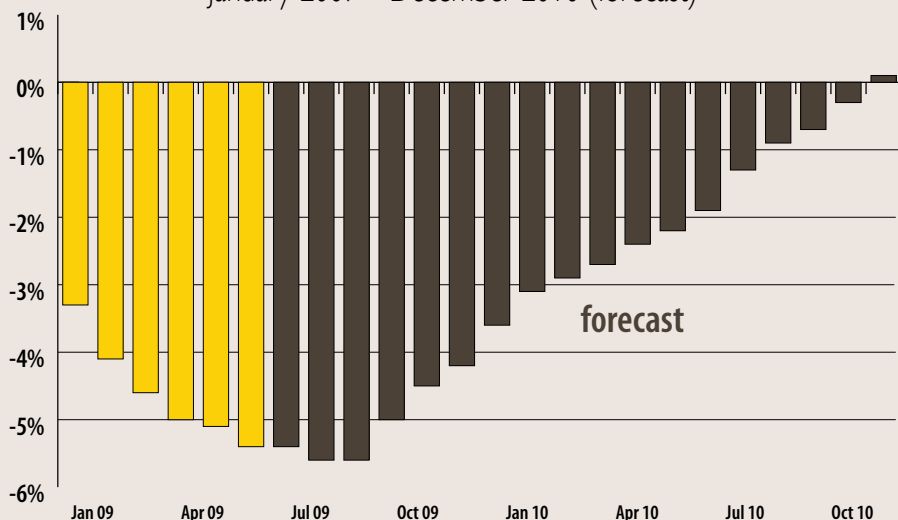
Consumers and business must be willing and able to carry the economic baton once the federal stimulus gives way. It is anticipated that they will, but in this environment, nothing is certain.

If the W-shaped scenario does not develop, then it is anticipated that job growth will begin in Utah sometime during the first half of 2010. Once job growth starts, it will be slow at first, but as the year progresses, more of the strengthening economic picture will be unveiled. This should elevate the overall feel of the economy, hopefully resulting in more business confidence in the economy and a more robust hiring picture by year's end.

We anticipate the Utah employment picture of calendar-year 2010 will show a job loss of 1.8 percent. By the time December 2010 arrives, we expect that the Utah job picture will have crossed to the positive side of the ledger and job growth will now be recorded moving forward into 2011.

Yes there will be a job movement upward during much of 2010, but the magical zero line will probably not be achieved and crossed until the end of the year. 

12-Month Percentage Change in Utah Employment by Month
January 2009 – December 2010 (forecast)

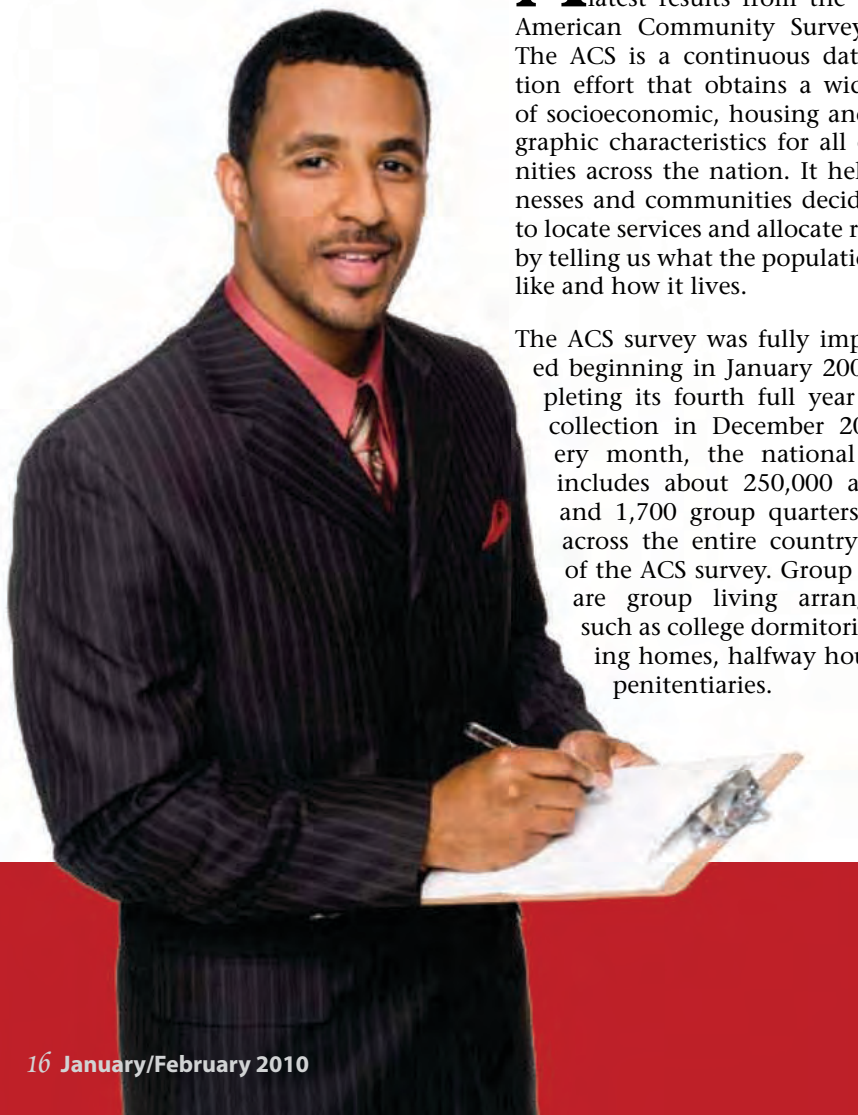


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

What will Utah's job growth be in the year 2010? We see two possibilities in this forecast.



American Community Survey



Annually, in the fall, the U.S. Bureau of the Census releases its latest results from the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a continuous data-collection effort that obtains a wide range of socioeconomic, housing and demographic characteristics for all communities across the nation. It helps businesses and communities decide where to locate services and allocate resources by telling us what the population looks like and how it lives.

The ACS survey was fully implemented beginning in January 2005, completing its fourth full year of data collection in December 2008. Every month, the national sample includes about 250,000 addresses and 1,700 group quarters, spread across the entire country as part of the ACS survey. Group quarters are group living arrangements such as college dormitories, nursing homes, halfway houses and penitentiaries.

Monthly data is combined over one-, three-, and five-year periods to provide reasonably reliable estimates of population characteristics for communities or other jurisdictions (states, counties, metropolitan areas, congressional districts, Indian reservations, etc.).

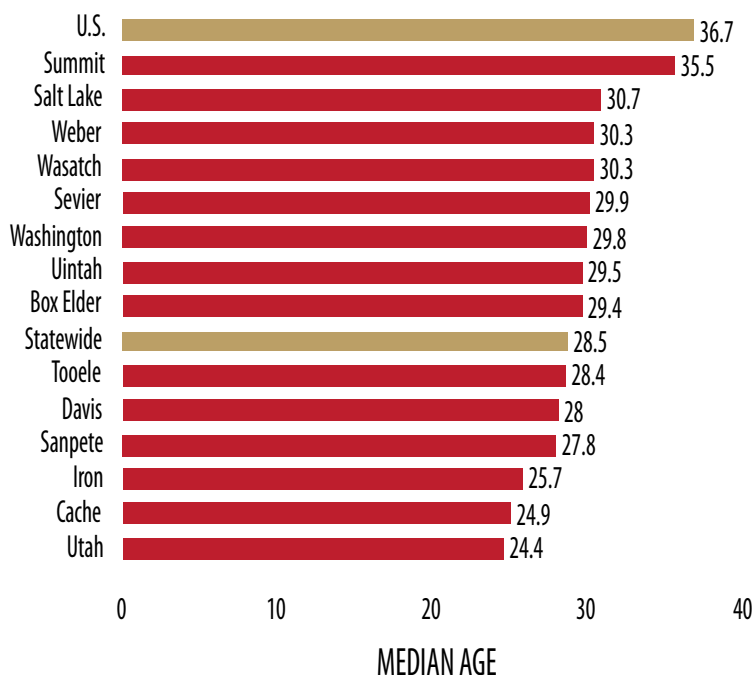
ACS data released in the fall of 2009 consisted of the second set of three-year (2006 to 2008) data for areas with populations of 20,000 or more. In Utah, for example, 14 of 29 counties have populations greater than 20,000, enabling estimates of the numerous characteristics of their residents to be released from data collected from January 2006 through December 2008.

The fourth set of one-year estimates (responses from the 12 months of each calendar year), were provided for areas with relatively large populations of 65,000 or more inhabitants.


The data collection efforts from ACS are completing the fifth year of opera-

Median Age 2006-2008

by County in Utah



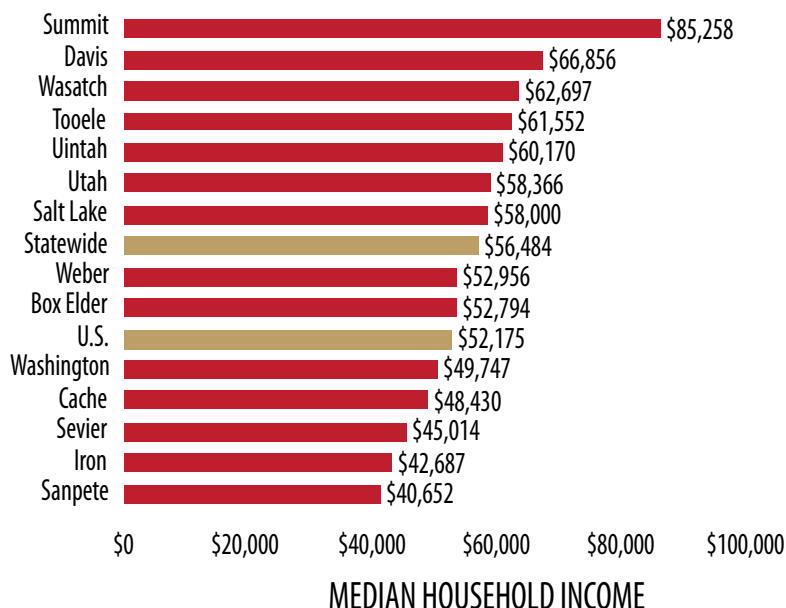
tion in December 2009. Sample survey responses from small communities or jurisdictions with populations of less than 20,000, will be combined over five years to obtain estimates of the full range of survey topics. The first set of ASC five-year results providing a data portrait for all communities, regardless of size, will be released in the fall of 2010.

Each year after 2010, ACS survey data will be combined into the most recent five-, three-, and one-year collections to provide detailed economic, social, demographic, and housing information used by businesses, planners and government officials to make informed decisions. 

To obtain the latest ACS results visit "American Factfinder," the Census Bureau's online data tool: factfinder.census.gov.

Median Household Income

by County in Utah (2008 inflation adjusted dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey.



POLICE OFFICER

◀ MAINTAINING ORDER ▶

Most of us are told from an early age that a police officer is our friend, but that is difficult to remember later when we see those flashing lights signaling for us to pull over and accept our punishment for a traffic violation. Fortunately, that doesn't happen very often. We quickly forget the inconvenience of traffic school and the pain of shelling out a few bucks for a fine or an increase in an insurance premium when our safety is threatened or our home invaded or our property damaged or stolen. In those instances, and many others, a police officer, who stands between us and those who would harm us or steal our property, re-emerges as our friend. That is a twenty-four hour job because a police officer, in most jurisdictions, is expected to protect us whether s/he is on duty or off. How many of us have said "I'm calling the cops" at least once in our lives, knowing full well that one would respond and start to set things straight, no matter the problem?

The description of police and sheriff's patrol officers, as set forth by the Standard Occupational Classification Manual, are those who "maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. Perform combination of following duties: patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts." Police officers also respond to emergencies, promote good community relations, and testify in court.

Civil service regulations govern the appointment of police and detectives in most states, large municipalities, and special police agencies, as well as in many smaller jurisdictions. Candidates must be U.S. citizens, usually at least 21 years old, at least a high school

graduate and must meet rigorous physical and personal qualifications. Eligibility usually depends on successful performance in competitive written examinations. One cannot have been convicted of a crime for which the applicant could have been punished by imprisonment in a state penitentiary

employed about 7 percent. A small proportion worked for educational services, rail transportation, and contract investigation and security services. Other job titles in this occupation are: public safety officer, alcohol law enforcement agent, K9 officer, patrol officer, and state trooper.

The Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST) is the basic training entity for all of Utah's law enforcement agencies.

nor can s/he have been convicted of an offense involving dishonesty, unlawful sexual conduct, physical violence, domestic violence, or the unlawful use, sale, or possession of a controlled substance.

Three to four months in a police academy is a requirement; the Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST) is the basic training entity for all of Utah's law enforcement agencies; on-the-job training provides the rest of the officer's education. Military experience, which provides relevant mental and physical conditioning, and college courses in police science are good starting places in some jurisdictions; others require an associate degree. Four-year degrees will aid in advancement.

In the U.S. police and detectives held about 861,000 jobs in 2006—79 percent were employed by local governments. State police agencies employed about 11 percent, and various federal agencies

In Utah, this occupation gets a four-star rating, which means that it will experience slower than average employment growth, but there will be a moderate volume of annual job openings. The need for replacements, rather than from business expansion, is projected to make up the majority of job openings in the coming decade.

continued on next page



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The next time you see those flashing lights, whether they are for you or not, remember these men and women who keep the peace and maintain order twenty-four hours a day. ☹



Occupational Wages-Published June 2009 for Police and Sheriffs Patrol Officers

(data from May 2008)

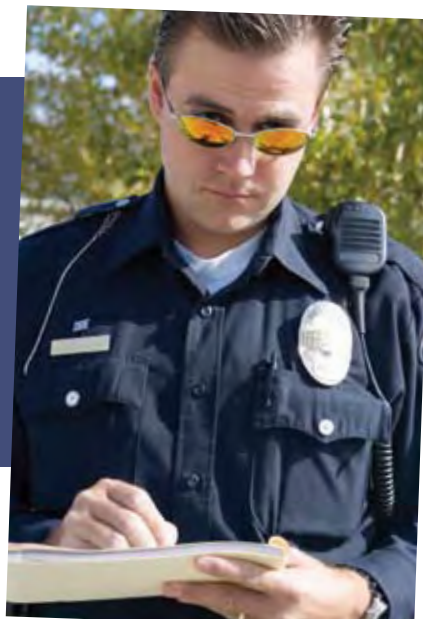
Area Name	Hourly Inexperienced	Hourly Median	Annual Inexperienced	Annual Median	Training
Central	\$16.98	\$18.47	\$35,320	\$38,410	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Eastern	\$16.54	\$18.85	\$34,400	\$39,210	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Ogden-Clearfield MSA	\$17.41	\$20.43	\$36,210	\$42,480	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Provo-Orem MSA	\$15.42	\$19.02	\$32,070	\$39,570	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Salt Lake City MSA	\$18.03	\$23.07	\$37,500	\$47,990	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Southwest	\$13.90	\$17.27	\$28,910	\$35,930	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
St.George MSA	\$15.89	\$19.49	\$33,040	\$40,540	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
United States	--	\$24.70	--	\$51,410	Long term OJT (> 12 months)
Utah	\$16.68	\$20.69	\$34,690	\$43,040	Long term OJT (> 12 months)

*Indicates that hourly wage rates for occupations where workers typically work fewer than 2,080 hours per year are not available.

**This wage is equal to or greater than \$70.00 per hour or \$145,600 per year.

For more information:

- <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/post/index.html>
- <http://www.eaglecollege.edu/>
- <http://www.suu.edu/>
- <http://www.uvu.edu/>
- <https://www.weber.edu/>



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Garfield County



The words “Garfield County” and “tourism” often go hand in hand. By some measures, Garfield County is the most tourism-dependent county in Utah. No wonder. Garfield County includes some of the most awesome scenery in the world.

How does a tourism-dependent economy show up in Garfield County’s economic indicators? Almost 40 percent of Garfield County’s nonfarm employment can be categorized in the leisure/hospitality industry—in vivid contrast to the statewide figure of only 9 percent.

The seasonal nature of Garfield County’s tourism employment is also evident in its unemployment rate. In just the past 12 months, Garfield County’s (seasonally unadjusted) jobless rate ranged from a high of 14.1 percent (in the dead of winter) to 3.5 percent in the fall of 2008. With a high percentage of its population out of work in the off-season, Garfield County often sports one of the highest annual unemployment rates in the state. ⓘ

For more information see <http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo>

Looking for Work in an Economic Downturn

Finding a job is hard work. Finding a job during a recession is even tougher. It may even feel impossible to those faced with this daunting task. Companies are restructuring, downsizing, laying off, or shutting down every day. Does this mean you're not going to find work? No. But it does mean you're going to have to work even harder to find a job and you may not find your ideal career-completing position at this time. Jobs are out there. No matter how weak the labor market is, people still move out of jobs for various reasons and create vacancies.

The job search advice given throughout this publication applies to any economic climate, but here are a few tidbits specific to the current economic situation that you can add to your arsenal:

- Realize that the competition for any position will be intense. With more people out of work than usual, the number of applicants for any one position will likely be quite high. For that reason, you're best off focusing your job search toward occupations for which you are currently qualified. When jobs are plentiful and job seekers are scarce, an employer may consider hiring someone who isn't fully qualified for a position with the idea in mind that the candidate can be trained for the skills s/he is lacking. Nowadays this will not be the case, so it's better to focus on jobs that are on par with your skill level.



Helpful Links

- <http://online.onetcenter.org/skills/> (Skills assessment)
- <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/reemplHome.do> (Compare related occupations)
- <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/outlooks/state/index.html> (Utah Job Outlook)

- In some situations it may even be to your long-run advantage to consider accepting a position for which you are overqualified. If, for example, a company that operates in your field of interest is only filling positions that are lower than your skill level, you could look at it as an opportunity to get your foot in the door. If you're hired you will likely have many chances to impress the boss and show your full range of talent so that when the company does open up higher-skill positions you'll have an even better chance of getting one.
- If you have enough flexibility in your personal situation, consider taking an internship, going part-time, or working freelance. Again, it's about getting your foot in the door and any of these situations will allow you to forge a relationship with an employer that could pay off in the long run.
- Think broadly about the labor market and understand how your skills may be applicable to other occupations or industries. You may be surprised to find out that with little or no training you could look for work in another occupation or industry. Often people don't realize the transferability of their skills. Widening your search scope will increase your

chances of finding gainful employment. (See above for a list of online skills analysis tools.)

- Keep abreast of information regarding the distribution of federal stimulus money. Following that trail could lead you to companies who will be hiring in order to complete government contracts.
- And last, but not least, consider going back to school. If you feel ready for a career change, or think maybe your field won't come back as strong when the economy recovers, consider starting a training or education program in a different area. Of course, you'll want to be sure to educate yourself on all the different programs out there, and be sure to choose something that fits your talents and interests and is projected to have strong growth and good wages.

Maybe this information leaves you hopeful and energized about your job search, or maybe the recession has got you so discouraged that you just can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. If the latter statement describes you best, then just keep this one thing in mind: the U.S. economy has bounced back from every other downturn in history. There's nothing to say it won't be true of this one also. ●



The good news
is that the U.S.
economy has
bounced back
from every other
downturn in
history.

the movers and shakers

Who moved into Cache and Washington Counties in 2008?

Survey provides information
on new move-ins



We used to be in the dark about who was moving to town. Now, the Census Bureau's American Community survey provides limited demographic and economic information on new move-ins. However, yearly information is only available for two counties outside the confines of the Wasatch Front—Cache and Washington.

Interestingly, these two counties are fairly similar in size. The survey's population totals show Cache County with nearly 110,000 individuals and Washington County with roughly 134,000 citizens. (Don't confuse these numbers with official population estimates from either the Census Bureau or the Utah Population Estimates Committee.) However, the characteristics on these counties' in-migrants appear decidedly different.

What a Difference a Major University Makes

The survey compares where residents lived in the survey year and the previous year. Cache County's in-migrant numbers are heavily influenced by the influx of students to attend Utah State University. Washington County is home to Dixie State College. However, this smaller college proves much less of a draw to out-of-county students.

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

Age of Cache County and Washington County InMigrants

2008



Cache County

Washington County

Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+

Moved from abroad

Moved from other states

Moved from other Utah counties

Moved within county

15,000

30,000

45,000

60,000

75,000

90,000

105,000

InMigration of Washington and Cache County Residents

Here's how the student exodus shows up: The survey showed that almost one-half of Cache County's 2008 in-migrants ranked between the ages of 18 and 24. While still substantial, this age group's proportion proved significantly smaller for Washington County (33 percent). Of course, young people in this age group typically manifest highest mobility of any age cohort. In contrast, during 2008, Washington County showed a noticeably higher share of in-migrants in the under-18 years-of-age group and in the 25-to-44 year-old age group than did Cache. Plus, despite its reputation as a retirement haven, only 4 percent of 2008 in-migrants were members of Washington County's 65-years-and-over category.

continued on next page

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.



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From Whence Did they come?

Interestingly, more people moved from one residence to another within Washington County in 2008 than moved from outside the county. Not so in Cache County. More than 17,000 of Cache County's movers changed addresses from outside the county compared to about 14,000 persons who moved from one residence to another inside the county. In addition, despite its smaller population base, Cache County showed a higher number of out-of-county in-migrants than did Washington County. In both areas, in-migrants were more likely to have moved from other Utah counties than from other states.

Sex, Money, and Education

The demographic and economic characteristics of in-migrants to Washington and Cache County exhibit remarkably different patterns. Again, they often reflect the heavy influx of students at Utah State University.

Only 41 percent of movers to Cache County were female compared to 55 percent of Washington County in-migrants.

More than 47 percent of Cache County in-migrants had a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to less than 19 percent for Washington County. Only 21 percent of in-migrants to Washington County had incomes below the poverty level compared to 35 percent in Cache County. Yes, most students really are "poor."

The median income of movers to Washington County from both inside and outside the state showed little difference. However, movers from within Utah to Cache County maintained much lower incomes than those moving from another state.

In both counties, roughly 70 percent of in-migrants rented rather than owned their residences. 📍

For more information on in-migrants, check out American FactFinder at www.census.gov



Interestingly more people moved from one residence to another within Washington County in 2008 than moved from outside the county.

just
the
facts...

November 2009 Unemployment Rates

Utah Unemployment Rate	6.3 %
U.S. Unemployment Rate	10.0 %
Utah Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	1,210.4
U.S. Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	132,223.0

Changes From Last Year

Up	2.5 points
Up	3.2 points
Down	3.1 %
Down	3.4 %

October 2009 Consumer Price Index Rates

U.S. Consumer Price Index	216.2	Down	0.2%
U.S. Producer Price Index	174.1	Down	1.9%

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

October 2009 Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Beaver	5.9 %
Box Elder	6.7 %
Cache	4.5 %
Carbon	7.8 %
Daggett	4.6 %

Davis	6.0 %
Duchesne	7.3 %
Emery	7.9%
Garfield	8.0 %
Grand	8.0 %

Iron	7.6 %
Juab	8.0 %
Kane	5.9 %
Millard	4.6 %
Morgan	5.6 %

Piute	6.2 %
Rich	3.9 %
Salt Lake	6.5 %
San Juan	11.5 %
Sanpete	6.7 %

Sevier	6.8 %
Summit	6.7 %
Tooele	7.0%
Uintah	7.3 %
Utah	6.1%

Wasatch	7.3 %
Washington	8.6 %
Wayne	6.2 %
Weber	7.4%

Watch for these features in our
Next Issue:

Theme:
Utah's Industries in Review

County Highlight:
Emery

Occupation:
Vehicle Drivers

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Workforce Development and Information Division
140 E. 300 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
SLC, UT
Permit # 4621

construction worker



What do they make?

How much training?

What is the job outlook?

Find it at

jobs.utah.gov

